

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021



How is your week going? It feels like it's been a week of hope, with Boris' announcement on Monday about restrictions easing further, and England getting through to the finals of Euro 2020.

I feel like it is going to be a summer of re-learning how to do church, working out how to manage the different views people have about the easing of restrictions and all having to be kind and understanding to each other as we move forward at different speeds.

In terms of Boris' announcement on Monday, it seems like we will be able to reduce social distancing in church and will finally be able to sing again! We need to wait for him to confirm that it will all go ahead, which he will do on the 12th July, ready for the changes to come into effect on 19th July. We also need to wait to see what guidance the Church of England puts out for us to follow.

There is a difference between what everyone can and wants to do in their own homes from 19th July, and what all those places and organisations that offer a service to the public (which we do as church) will have to consider in keeping everyone safe as cases are rapidly rising. So please bear with us as we try and get the balance right between being able to do more, managing everyone's different expectations, and having a duty to keep people safe who come into our building.

Our plan over the summer is to have our usual family services (based on the Olympics this year), and we will use the summer to slowly introduce things and adapt the way we do church. We will then look to restart children's and youth groups, both midweek and on a Sunday, from September, but this will be dependent on having enough volunteers to run the groups. The Sunday groups will start with a creche, one children's group, and one youth group. We will be trying to build our volunteer teams back up in time for September, so look out for information on the roles available, and maybe start thinking and praying about what you might be able to offer.

I would just encourage all of us as we move forwards to be open and accepting, to have wide expectations and a thick skin if things don't happen in the way or at the speed we might want. Encouragement and sensitivity will be key!

### Notices

**Last week of groups** - Next week will be the last week of most of our groups and activities before the summer holidays...

Bright Zoom on Monday at 4pm

Glow Zoom on Tuesday at 4pm

Chair-aerobics on Zoom on Tuesday at 9.45am

**Youth** - I will be sending a separate email out to parents of youth later today, with details for our last two sessions, including one at Adamswell.

**Church picnic** - as long as the easing of restrictions happens as we expect, we are planning to have a church picnic in Grosvenor and Hilbert Park, from 12pm on Sunday 25th July. We will use the lower field, near the Hilbert Road entrance. I'll send a map out nearer the time. Everyone is welcome to join us, whether you have come to church that morning or not! Bring your own lunch and something to sit on, and we'll see you there.

**BBQs** - we are also planning a couple of BBQs in Chris and Carole's garden over the summer, for anyone who would like to come. I will send out details of those in a week or so, once we have confirmed the details.

**New Wine** - the New Wine summer festival, United Breaks Out, is happening online from Thursday 29th July - Tuesday 3rd August. There will be all the normal New Wine sessions online, as well as kids' sessions and youth stuff. Have a look here for all the information <https://www.new-wine.org/events/united-breaks-out/>

The youth stream is called Luminosity, and they have a separate website <https://www.weareluminosity.org/> Young people can sign up to get all the information and loads of sessions to tune into.

It's all free, so well worth being part of this if you can!

That's all for this week! We hope you have a good weekend.

Please do be in touch if you would like any help or support.